



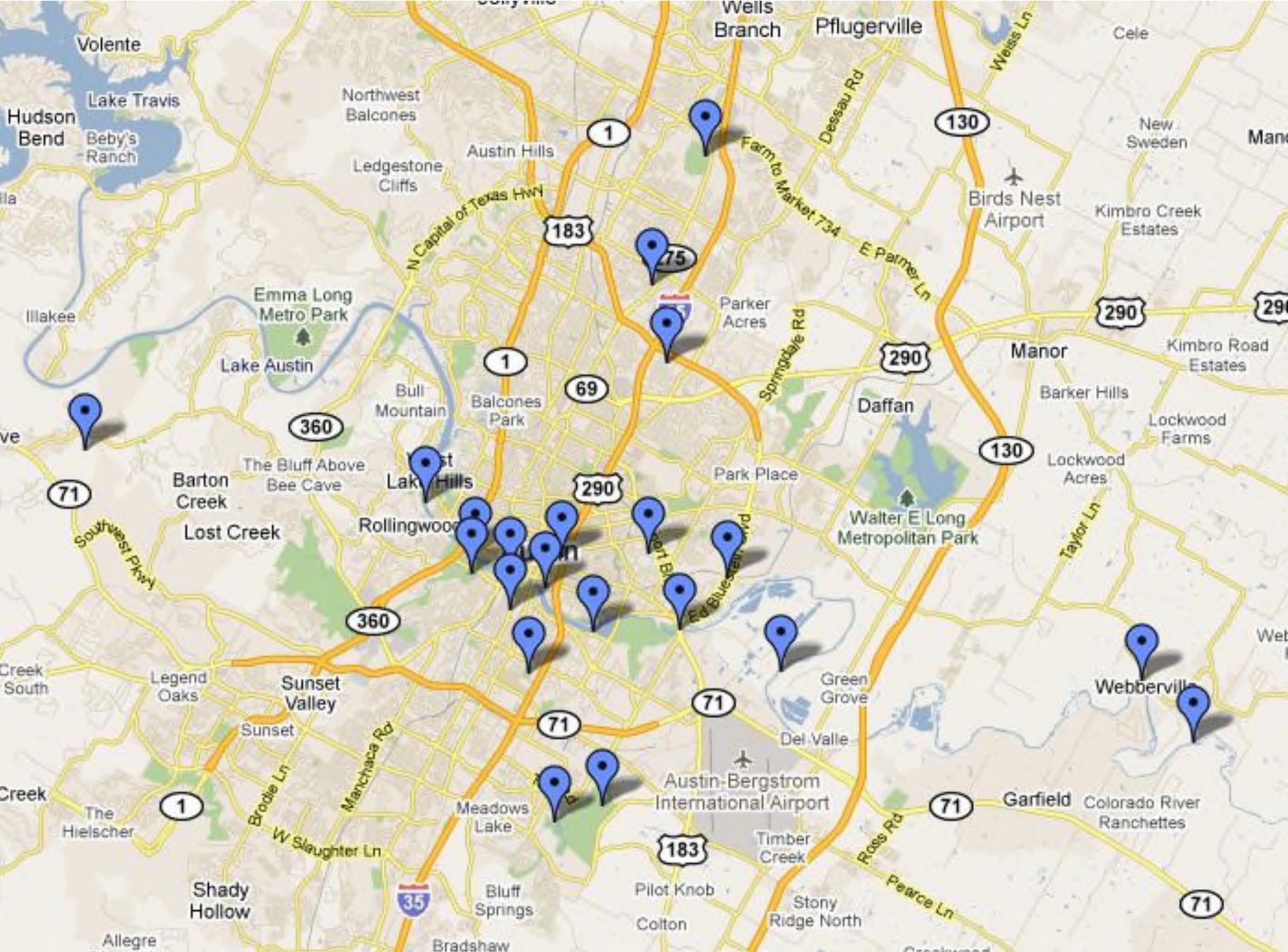
**Every year, we transform the lives of 120 teenagers through holistic, youth-development activities that focus on environmental stewardship and academic success.**













### **For the Austin community:**

- ✓ Monitoring water quality at 25 sites in the Austin area
- ✓ Providing water data to the City of Austin, LCRA, and others
- ✓ More “disadvantaged” students graduating from high school
- ✓ Training the next generation of environmental stewards

### **For our students:**

- ✓ Giving students something productive to do after school
- ✓ Supporting students in graduating from high school
- ✓ Providing a safe space to study and learn from each other, as well as from adult role models
- ✓ Getting kids out in nature!







HydroTech

## **Program Growth:**

1. Fall 2014: Supplement our core programs with stream-improvement **student service projects**.
2. Fall 2015: Double the size of our core programs, to serve **250 students per year**.



## Considerations for working with teens:

- Will you work with students who are considered “at-risk” or “underserved”?
- What age teenagers will you work with?
- Recruitment: Where will the students come from? Will they already know each other?
- What are your objectives for their experience with you? Will there be learning objectives?

## **Tip #1:**

**Bring a soccer ball.**

**(Make it fun with games, breaks, working in groups, etc. Pay attention to the overall experience for them.)**



## **Tip #2:**

**Treat them like the adults they think they are.**

**(Mutual trust, mutual respect, genuine caring.  
Remember that you are a role model to them: What kind of role model do you want to be?)**



## **Tip #3:**

### **Poop in the desert.**

**(Look for teachable moments in what you're doing, and take the detours into unexpected content. The teens will remember these most of all. Note that these detours take time, so build some extra room into your schedule.)**



## **Tip #4:**

**Pay them.**

**(Think about what obstacles the young people will face, and remove them: Money, transportation, food, clothing, isolation.)**



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*William E. Fisher*  
Secretary of the Treasury

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## **Tip #5:**

### **Hand over the reins.**

**(Encourage students to take ownership of the work. Find ways to let them lead. The long-term impact on their lives will come through deep and personal engagement.)**



## **Top 5 tips for working with teens:**

1. Make it fun.
2. Treat them with respect and trust.
3. Look for teachable moments.
4. Remove obstacles.
5. Let them lead.

## **Additional thoughts:**

- When you're applying for a grant, working with teens makes your proposal much more fundable. Be sure you're ready for the work.
- Be aware that teenagers perceive and evaluate risk much differently from adults.
- Be deliberate about what's in it for them.

***Applause!***

